

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 1, 2005

LR 8

speak on your reconsideration motion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I listened very carefully to Senator Edward Schrock, Edward the first, since I've been in the Legislature. And I'm not swayed. I can think of any number of things which, if you gave to the people, they would vote to put into the constitution. I'm just going to read something, and you may not follow it because the way they constructed sentences in the old days makes it a little difficult on occasion to see exactly what they're talking about, but this would relate to the qualification of judges. If federal judges were regarded not as unlettered local magistrates but as professionally qualified officials, appointed because they unite the requisite integrity with the requisite knowledge of the laws, they should need far less recourse to a bill of rights than the people at large who would forget their rights if they were not publicly proclaimed. The point that I would emphasize is the notion of knowledge, professional training and understanding, not like a local magistrate. There are any number of people in groups who have cockeyed, lamebrain notions of what the constitution says and what the laws are. I don't know where they get some of this stuff, but they send it to me and they're totally off the beam. Senator Schrock could show me a list of names on enough sheets of paper to make a pile as thick as the Omaha telephone book, white and yellow pages, and I would not be swayed. If you take an ignorant position and multiply the 1 ignoramus who holds it by 15,000 who hold it, it is no less ignorant. That merely manifests the principle that ignorance multiplies itself more rapidly than does wisdom. These people who signed this piece of paper don't know anything about the constitution. Our job is not to reflect ignorance. Our job, if we're going to accept the notion that elected officials are leaders of some kind, is to show enlightenment. We are to teach the public. We have the opportunity to get information and inform our judgment, and we should behave as people whose judgment has been informed. Constitutional rights, constitutional provisions should not be a matter of a popularity contest or an opinion poll. That is how the shallow, superficial mind-set of people in America is viewed by the ad makers on Madison Avenue. Why do you think the advertisements are so brainless, so tasteless, so vulgar, so